A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thurſday, Auguſt 14. 1707.

NOT always to talk of foreign Wars, let us return a little, Gentlemen, and perhaps we may find ſome Wars broken out, that few People have heard of. I have been a long time talking of Peace, diſtinguiſhing and deſcribing the kinds of it, ſhewing the Beauty of Peace on one Hand, and the Miſchiefs of our Breaches on the other— And thus I have been talking, till you are tyred of the Tale; and one ſays, there's no need on't, another ſays I ſay too much of it, and a third Party ſays, they don't deſire it—And amongſt you all, I have had ſo many ſnarling, ſlighting, and rejecting the Propoſal, that I have laid aſide the Subject for ſome time.

And now, Gentlemen, you ſhall ſee ſome of the Follies of Party-Strife, you ſhall ſee the Beauty of Contention, the Excellency of falling out among your ſelves; and as any body likes the Picture, they may take up the Cauſe, and let us ſee all the extraordinary Benefits of it to the World.

I cannot but obſerve here, the wonderfull Variation which happens in the Opinions of Men and of Times, about this one ſmall common, too common, and too frequent thing call'd MOBB; O theſe things call'd Tumults, Rabbles, and Riots, are ſtrange things, they have the oddeſt outſide with them, of moſt things I have met with in the World— To Day one Party cryes out of Rabbles and Tumult, and rails at a whole Party for the Extravagancies of a few; the other Party juſtifies Actions from their Cauſes, and excuſes things by Circumſtances; and great Diſputes about ſuch things have happen'd in the World; where-

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in we always find the weakeſt in Power, have the worſt in the Argument; in great Rabbles, the Language is Tranſlated, and we call them juſt Wars; Victorious Tumult gets the Sanction of Succeſs, and he is the ſacred Prince that gets the Stamp of his Authority printed by the length of his Sword.

But to come to leſſer Matters; it is one of the oddeſt of things in the World, to find ſome ſort of Men talk Diametrically oppoſite out of the ſame Mouth, as it contraries eſpous'd in ſuch a manner, by the ſame Perſons or Parties, Illuſtrated one another.

To Day we have the Rabbles of 1 thrown in the Face of the Presbyterian S and their very Poſterity branded with the Extravagancies of their Anceſtors; to morrow we have the very ſame Party crying Huzza to the Rabble in the North, bleſſing and defending the Tumults againſt the UNION, ſtoning the QUEEN in the Perſon of Her Majeſty's High Commiſſioner; Inſulting the Government in the Repreſentative of the Nation, the Parliament, and taking Arms, *had they dar'd to ſhow them*, againſt the very Being of the Conſtitution.

To come from this to Eccleſiaſtical Affairs; O what Out-crys have been made of the Rabbles, of the Revolution, and mobbing the Epiſcopal Miniſters ſubſequent hard Uſage of them, Perſecution and the like; all which I believe I ſhall have the Honour to ſet in a true Light, and perhaps undeceive the Age in things they have been impos'd upon on that Account— But would any body think, they that have ſo exclaim'd againſt Rabbling our Governours, reſiſting the Powers and the like, have preach'd up the Doctrine of Obedience for Conſcience ſake, and the like, ſhould now fall into the ſame Crime, flye in the Face of an Eſtabliſh'd Authority, Rabble and Aſſault the Miniſters, Appointed by the Legal Authority, and ſettle Miniſters in vacant Churches.

That Tumults and Rabbles will happen in the World, is nothing ſtrange thing, and I do not make that any Argument—for Offences will come; but to ſee theſe very Tumults encourag'd applauded, defended, and boaſted of by thoſe very People who have all along compli'd of Rabbles, and Mobbs, have appropriated them to Presbyterians, as the peculiar of the Party, and valu'd themſelves upon their conſtant ſubmiſſion to juſt Authority; to ſee theſe People abett the Rabble, hire Fellows to dreſs themſelves in Womens Cloaths, to appear in it, put their Servants, and force their Tenants by Commands and Threats to joyn in them:— This is a ſtrange Metamorphoſis of Circumſtances, and is a wonderful Teſt of the ſincerity of a Party of Men, who really approve or exclaim not as Actions really are in themſelves, but as they ſerve or diſſerve, gratify or obſtruct the Party they are embark'd in, and the Deſign they are driving on in the World.

We are now to furniſh a fruitful Inſtance in the World, wherein it will appear, the Riots and Tumults, the Rabbling of Miniſters, and Inſulting Governments, does not all lye at the Door of the Whigs and *Preſbyterians*, and as this is but the beginning of Diſcoveries, and that ſome yet more hidden Works of Darkneſs are coming to Light, which perhaps may more than ſurprize the World— it requires this Caſe to be particularly ſtated, and very well atteſted.

The Reader, to introduce this Story, is to underſtand, that the Town of *Dingwall*, is in the North of *Scotland*, in the Bounds of the Synod of *Roſs*; that the Church being vacant of a Miniſter, and it being the Work of the Synod, at their General Synodical Meeting, to ſupply vacant Churches, they met for that End — That the Heritor or Laird, who is there as the Lord of the Manor and Patron is in *England*, had the Keys—That this Gentleman being demanded Legally to deliver them, and knowing he could not refuſe, gets a Day Appointed for the Synod to meet, and by that time procur'd the Tumult following— And as there are a Cloud of Witneſſes to prove the Fact, and whoſe Names are to be ſeen, and a Liſt of them I have by me from the Original, tranſmitted to the Publick for Juſtice, ſo is there alſo full Teſtimony of the means uſed, to bring the poor People into this Miſchief, as well by Perſwaſions, Promiſes, Threatnings, and all ſorts of uſual Compulſions, a thing eaſy enough in a Place, where the Lords have ſuch an abſolute Power over their Tenants, as is known to be in that Country.

The Matter of Fact, as tranſmitted from the ſpot, to a Perſon of Quality in the North, is exactly as follows:

A Repre-

A Repreſentation and Information, anent a Rabble at Dinguall, *upon the eighteenth Day of* June, *One Thouſand ſeven hundred and Seven Years.*

THE Synod of *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, met at *Dingnall* the 28th Day of *May* laſt, where they had occation to converſe with *John Bayn* younger, of *Tullock*, one of the Heritors of that Pariſh, and with *Alexander Bain* younger of *Knockbain*, and *John Dinguall*, both preſent Bailiffs of the ſaid Burgh; to whom they told, That the Synod was come there, to meet about their Synodical Affairs, and were content to Commune with them anent their vacancy; and the Synod having obtain'd a Gift from the Lords of Her Majeſtys Thefaury, of their vacant Stipends, were always content with the conſent of Town and Pariſh to diſpoſe of their Stipends for pious uſes within the Pariſh, providing always the Town and Pariſh would entertain the preaching of the Goſpel among them, and call a Miniſter according to the preſent Eſtabliſhment; to which young *Tullock* made Anſwer, That he was but one of the Heritors, that he expected not the Synod there that day, and therefore could make no Anſwer, until the whole of the Heritors were adviſed anent this Propoſal; the Bailiffs likewiſe gave the ſame Anſwer; whereupon the Moderator required the Bailiffs to get them the Keys of the Kirk and peaceable acceſs thereunto; to which the Bailiffs anſwer'd, That they did not know what was become of the Keys, nor could they get them that Day, wherefore Mr. *Daniel Mackilligen*, Miniſter of *Kilmnircaſter*, took Inſtruments in his own Name, and all that ſhould adhere to him, upon the Requiſition and Denial of the Keys of the *Kirk*, in the Hands of the Clerk of the Synod which was then Conſtitute.

Upon Mr. *Mackiligen*'s Inſtrumenting the Magiſtrates, *John Bain* younger of *Tullock*, made ſome anſwer thereto, which was marked by the Clerk, and it being moved, That the above Gentlemen ſhould Subſcribe his Anſwer, he declin'd the ſame, and called for a Notary Publick to Record his Anſwers, and the ſaid Notary Publick coming to the Room where the Synod was, Maſter *Daniel Mackilligen* renewed his Proteſtation in the Notary Publicks Hands; the ſaid *John Bain* upon this gave (in Face of the Synod) opprobious Language to the ſaid Mr. *Mackiligen*, by calling him a Raſchal, a Lyar, and a damn'd Lyar, &c. and ſaid, if the Synod came to trouble they might blame themſelves; unto which it being reply'd, That the ſaid Synod being protected by Law, and Her Majeſtys free Lieges, they dreaded no trouble unleſs there were a *Mob*, and that the Magiſtrates were obliged to protect them; then *John Bain* younger of *Tullock*, in a menacing way, ſaid *it may be, it may be, it may be*, thrice, *there will be a Mob*, whereupon Mr. *Mackilgen* proteſted, if there ſhould be any thing of a Mob, the ſaid young *Tullock* ſhould be reputed the promoter and inſtigator of it; and farder the ſaid Mr. *Mackilgen* proteſted for Remeed of Law, as to the Injury and Abuſe done him, by the ſaid *John Bain* younger of *Tullock*, which Proteſtations he took in the Hands of the Clerk of the Synod, and all in the hands of the *Notary Publick*.

After all this, the abovenamed Bailiffs by the ſaid *John Bain* younger of *Tullock* his Advice, proffered to the Synod under form of Inſtrument to deliver them the Keys of the Kirk of *Dinguall*, and give them peaceable acceſs thereto, providing they came to that place upon the 18th of *June* next, wherein the Synod reſted ſatisfied, and appointed their next meeting at *Dinguall* the ſaid day; and farder the ſaid Synod appointed Mr. *John Fraſer* Miniſter of *Calnes* to acquaint the Laird of *Kilravock*, Sheriff Principal of *Roſs*, of the abovementioned mutual Concert, 'twixt the Synod and the Magiſtrates of *Dinguall*, which was accordingly done; likewiſe the Synod appointed Mr. *G. Munro* Miniſter of *Nigg*, to acquaint my Lord *Macleod* who is preſent Provoſt of the ſaid Burgh of the abovenamed appointment, but tho' the ſaid Mr. *G. Munro* went to my Lord *Macleod*'s Houſe, and waited ſome time there, but he could get no acceſs to his Lordſhip.

Upon the 18th Day of *June*, the Miniſters and Elders of the Synod of *Roſs* and *Sutherland* come forward, to hold their Meeting at *Dinguall*, and being informed upon the Road, there was a great Convocation of a mixt Multitude to oppoſe the Synod, they ſent one of their number to know the certainty of the Information, viz. Mr. *Archibald Bowies*, Miniſter of *Dornoch*, who accordingly came to the Town End of *Dinguall*, Mr. *George Frazer* Merchant at *London*, going about his Lawful Affairs, and in his Journey that way to *Invernes*, went in Company with the ſaid Mr. *Bowies*, and there the mixt Multitude fell upon them, beat the ſaid Mr. *Bowies* Horſe, offered Violence to himſelf, which obliged him to retire, it being the common cry amongſt them, that if any Miniſter ſhould attempt to come there among them, they ſhould knock them down, and they laid hold on the ſaid Mr. *G. Frazer*'s Horſe, knock'd both Horſe and Rider to the effuſion of his Blood, having broken his Head.

But the Miniſters being informed, that the Sheriff principal of *Roſs*, had come to *Dingual* that Day, they went forward to the Town End, where they ſaw the Bailiffs, viz. *Allex. Bain* younger of *Knockbain*, and *John Dingual*.

A mixt Multitude of Men and Women being